

04-25-08

To Whom it may concern at the FCC;

I just wanted to say that I feel that changing your rules and policies regarding radio broadcasting will severely impact the quality of life in the USA.

I am a regular listener to K-LOVE, a Christian radio station. I appreciate their music, news, programming and on-air comments. We often have them on more than one radio in our house because our family enjoys their positive and encouraging music and comments and we don't want to miss them as we travel room to room or task to task.

I feel K-LOVE provides a vital service to my community and the country as a whole (since they are available in most states and on the internet). If people are having problems they can call in and talk to someone about them. Many people are without hope and this radio station lets people know that they are loved and things can change for the better.

Some of your proposed rule change would adversely affect the radio station and may even cause them to be off the air. Then our country would be without another one of its "thousand lights" to help people. One of the things that I love about America is that we have choices and as long as we live within the law, we are free to make them. If you make the proposed changes, you will be reducing the choices that are available and thereby our freedom.

Therefore, I submit the following comments in response to the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the "NPRM"), released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

Any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, if enacted, would do so – and must not be adopted.

- (1) The FCC must not force radio stations, especially religious broadcasters, to take advice from people who do not share their values. The NPRM's proposed advisory board proposals would impose such unconstitutional mandates. Religious broadcasters who resist advice from those who don't share their values could face increased harassment, complaints and even loss of license for choosing to follow their own consciences, rather than allowing incompatible viewpoints to shape their programming. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, particularly a religious broadcaster, must present.
- (2) The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone has rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so – even if a religious broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion.
- (3) The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision-making information. The choice of programming, especially religious programming, is not properly dictated by any government agency – and proposals to force reporting on such things as who produced what programs would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.
- (4) The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. The proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who stay true to their consciences and present only the messages they correspond to their beliefs could face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.
- (5) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets, as do many smaller market secular stations. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks – and curtailed service is contrary to the public interest.

Linda Harral
5606 Elkcrest Dr
Lincoln, NE 68516-1438
402-483-4951